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CWU is starting to feel the pride

By Nic Cooper

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Starting Monday, May 30, Central Washington University's EQuAl Club will be kicking off this year's Pride Week, giving students a chance to come out and enjoy competitive field games and live music – but most of all to learn and become more educated about the LGBTQIA+ community.

EQuAl is bringing the new theme of “One Proud World” to this year's Pride Week and it's something they've never done before.

“It's all about recognizing the beautiful ways in which people are queer all around the world,” said Patrick Carpenter, EQuAl club president.

The club's goal was to find a theme that reminds people that being part of the LGBTQIA+ community means there is a shared history and a global connection.

- See “Proud” page 9

Pride coverage

- CWU flies the rainbow flag for the first time - Page 2
- EQuAl club started from small beginnings and is now home to a close-knit family - Page 10



Jordan Cameron/The Observer

This is the first year Central Washington University has included rainbow-colored paws as part of Pride Week. Another pair can be found on the SURC west

Rugby coach announces resignation

By Zac Hereth

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After six years as head coach of Central Washington University's men's rugby team, Tony Pacheco, the coach who put the Wildcat rugby program on the national map, has resigned.

The press release came out just after 5 p.m. last Thursday and gave no indication of what lies ahead for Pacheco.

When asked to comment, CWU's athletics department said nobody was available to speak about the situation. Athletics Director Dennis Francois referred all questions to Pacheco.

Pacheco has been the program's only

coach since its elevation to varsity status in the spring of 2014.

“I am extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the past 10 years. The move we made in 2014 was truly unprecedented,” Pacheco said in a press release from Wildcatsports.com. “However, I feel that it is time for me to find a different challenge. I'd like to thank the visionary administration for this opportunity, and thank you to all the people in the CWU rugby family.”

Pacheco is a CWU alumnus and has been with the program since 2007, when he joined as a volunteer.

The surprise decision comes just under a month after the Wildcats third-

straight loss in the semifinals of the Penn Mutual Varsity Cup, a tournament that features the nation's most prominent men's rugby programs.

“I respect Tony's decision and want to thank him for the many contributions he made to CWU rugby and leading the transition of the program from club to varsity,” athletics director Dennis Francois said in the press release. “The success of the program speaks volumes to the quality of student-athletes Tony has been able to attract to CWU and I am confident that the program is on solid footing as we begin our search for his replacement.”



Courtesy CWU athletics department

CWU parking: Is it a problem or a matter of convenience?

By Jonathan Glover

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In March, Nick Hansen, senior chemistry student at Central Washington University, decided he would try an experiment – a test to measure how much time would pass before he could find a parking spot.

His tools? A stopwatch and a '97 white Volvo. He left his apartment at 10:45 a.m. After a two-minute drive to campus, he was ready to begin.

He circled lot after lot, eyeing people who looked like they were returning to their cars, and nudging his way into

queues. At 11:03 a.m. he had done it – he found a parking spot. And it only took 16 minutes.

But Hansen wasn't alone that day. He and hundreds of other students were (and are) contributing to one of CWU's largest daily social experiments: How to find a parking spot before your professor marks you tardy. He failed by three minutes, but that hasn't stopped him and other students from trying.

“Every time I drove down, it was kind of like playing with fire,” he says.

- See “Problem” page 6



Charles Harding/The Observer

Student parking spots

General: 2,423
30-min: 72
Disabled: 119

2015/2016 passes

Student calendar year: 2100
Student academic year: 1174
Winter quarter: 193

THE EVERGREEN SCENE

Smoking on a budget



Chase Tibbles/Observer

By Brian Cook

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We understand that many college student’s want to smoke marijuana but are on a tight budget. The Observer has visited the local retail shops to find out what to do with that \$20 burning a hole in your pocket.

Cannabis Central

With their easy to read menus, Cannabis Central is a great place to swing in with a couple bucks to spend and walk out with a product that will bring joy, especially their \$5 half-gram bowls-to-go.

“Blue Dream is the Star Wars of weed,” claims Darek Travis, CWU alumnus and budtender at Cannabis Central. “More like episode four. It’s amazing with everything. You’ll never go wrong with it.”

Receiving a 4.4-star rating on Leafly, the sativa-dominant hybrid is a highly recommended strain across the nation.

Blue Dream has a THC content of 12.6 percent, and is a great strain for new smokers. With the low THC content, this strain is less likely to overwhelm someone and give them

a bad experience.

Blue Dream is available at Cannabis Central, in the form of flower or pre-rolls from Gecko Growers out of Wenatchee, at a low price of \$10 for two pre-rolled single-gram joints.

While there are multiple pre-rolls for sale at Cannabis Central, with a low THC content, there are a lot that are high in THC percentages.

“I would recommend the Blue Northern Light pre-roll for \$5,” said Amanda Moore, Cannabis Central Budtender.

Produced by Oberfelder Holdings, this .6-gram joint is likely to get the job done with its high THC percentage at 21.46 percent.

The Tommy Gun Killer by Prohibition Brands is a highly recommended joint by Cannabis Central budtenders for a night of relaxation with a few friends.

“It’s just beautiful,” Moore said.

The Tommy Gun Killer is a .7-gram joint that is 49.56 percent THC and made with ground nugget flower, kief, moroccan style hash, more kief

and honey oil. Sold at Cannabis Central for \$25, this joint is well worth the price tag.

The Green Shelf

The Green Shelf has a large variety of great products from producers across the state and offer a 10 percent discount every Tuesday to all students with valid identification.

The store features a large specials board, which showcases products from producers who are new to the shop as well as recommendations from management.

They also have a variety of edibles produced by Magic Kitchen. Each edible contains 10 mg of THC and is sold for \$5 each.

In their daily specials section, The Green Shelf has a variety of single gram pre-rolls from Sour Face.

The store also has low prices on bags of shake produced by Sour Face. These bags are perfect for those who enjoy rolling joints themselves. Bags come in a variety of strains, and start at \$25 for 7 grams or \$40 for 14 grams.

As for oil and waxes, The Green Shelf tries to keep at least one product on sale for \$30 a gram.



Observation
Deck

When I was 19 years old, I visited my first Pride parade in Seattle. I’m not gay (though many people assume I am when they first meet me – it must be the way I talk, dress and act) but I’ve been a staunch supporter of LGBTQIA+ rights since I was first aware of the community.

I grew up in Darrington, a very conservative area of Washington. It took up one-square mile in the foothills of the Cascades, had a population of about 1,000 people and had one grocery store, drug store and gas station. Small doesn’t even begin to describe it.

One of the first things I noticed as a transplant from the coastal town of Mukilteo when I was 8 was that many people in Darrington had small-town ideas and understandings of the world. When I was in 8th grade, the two bullies in my class called me gay constantly.

I didn’t take it as an offense – if anything, it made me questions why it was an insult to begin with. The only reason, I think, they even called me gay was because I was particular about my hair and I wore a purple sweatshirt and hat (my aunt really wanted me to go to the University of Washington).

Anyway, back to my point: I learned at a young age that there is nothing wrong or weird about being what many people consider wrong or weird. Just look at the Observer’s Facebook page for proof.

On our story that covered Barge Hall flying the rainbow flag for the first time, there were a few commenters who denounced the act of flying a flag high above the campus as a political move and one that isn’t fair to other movements.

On the face of the argument, it seems simple enough and almost reasonable. But when you really dig into it, it doesn’t hold much water.

For one, flying a flag is hardly a political statement or a movement. More so, it’s a stance that whomever is represented by the

flag is heard, understood and acknowledged. It would be hard to make the argument that flying a “12th man” flag in support of the Seahawks is political – in reality, it’s just saying “we support the Seahawks.”

Another argument was that by Central Washington University taking a stance in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ people, they’re effectively pushing an agenda that doesn’t jibe with other people. Namely, it doesn’t jibe with some members of the Christian faith who deem homosexuality a “choice” or “lifestyle” they don’t approve of.

I’m not even going to waste time responding to that. It’s 2016 people, you should understand by now that homosexuality is not a choice. And even if it was, who cares? Rather, why does what somebody else does at home affect you in any way, shape or form? It doesn’t. Moving on.

Others questioned why the school isn’t flying a Christian flag. Well, have you asked them to? I’m sure they would if you really wanted it.

What I’ve noticed is that Ellensburg shares many of the same qualities (and drawbacks) that my hometown had. This week has shown me that you really can’t escape the sort of people you don’t see eye to eye with.

Even though CWU is a fairly liberal college, it’s still located in a mostly conservative town – a town with a few community members stuck in the past when it comes to LGBTQIA+ rights.

While these individuals don’t represent Ellensburg as a whole, many of these small-town mindsets seem to be a constant no matter where you’re located geographically.

I guess the best course of action in these situations is to just ignore and move on. After all, I can’t think of a time when feeding a troll actually sounded like a good idea.

-Jonathan Glover
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CORRECTIONS

The story in last week’s issue on page three of news about air conditioning in Farrell Hall and Brooks Library indicated that there was never AC in those buildings when instead there is, it is just being fixed.

Editorial policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of the Observer is two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large; and to be the best source for education, entertainment, news and sports. As a training program, the Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values, and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions call (509) 963-1073 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

NEWS

EDITOR: JULIA MORENO | news@cwuobserver.com

Minimum-wage raise is all the rage

Workers, small business owners, see pros and cons to a \$15 minimum wage

By Victoria Shamrell

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Small businesses in Ellensburg could be heavily affected by a minimum-wage increase to \$15. While big corporations could adapt easily, small businesses say they'd risk going out of business.

A living wage of \$15 per hour is one of the biggest issues in the United States right now. In 2014, Seattle passed a law regarding a \$15 minimum wage, allowing companies to gradually increase their worker wages by Jan. 7, 2021, until they are paying full minimum wage. Just recently, Oregon passed minimum wage legislation that



McKenzie Lakey/Observer

Some student workers in the SURC are split on how they feel about the possible increase of minimum wage to \$15.

would gradually increase the minimum wage until it is at \$15 an hour by 2019. A living wage is also a main plank of Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders' platform.

While there are many people who support \$15 an hour and others who don't, there are those who see both sides, like Melissa Irwin. Irwin is a senior at Central Washington

University and is majoring in business. She works as a cashier at the Wrap and Roll station in the SURC and is paid the current minimum wage of \$9.47 an hour.

"Part of me is against it because I feel like you should go to school to be paid that wage, but another part of me thinks if someone is down on their luck and they just can't get out of

their minimum-wage job, then they should be able to live off a \$15 wage," Irwin said.

One major issue with a minimum wage of \$15 is that workers in easy jobs would be making the same as someone who went to school to get specialized skills. One example of this is fast food workers would be paid the same as paramedics.

Irwin feels like the amount

SURC workers are paid right now is a decent wage since most of the jobs in the SURC are pretty easy.

"I literally just swipe a card, so that doesn't really require a lot of skill," Irwin said.

Bernie Sanders

According to his campaign website, Sanders has proposed a federal minimum wage increase of \$15 over the next several years so that no person who works long hours has to live in poverty.

Courtney Smith, sophomore math major, participated in the Ellensburg march for Bernie Sanders because she believes he is the right candidate to fight for a living wage in America.

"Nobody who works 50 hours a week should be living in poverty," Smith said firmly.

Smith pointed out that if the minimum wage had increased as the inflation rate increased, it would be up to \$25 by now.

Mary Treis, junior Japanese major, also agreed with Smith's statement that anyone who works 50 hours a week should not be living in poverty. Treis says that Sanders is not only fighting for a living wage, he is also fighting for equal pay as well.

- See "Wage" page 6

Science II coming soon with a building near you

By Kailan Manandic

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After over two years of construction, Central Washington University's new science building is nearly ready for operation.

Science Phase II has finished construction and is on track to open this fall for the new school year. The building will be equipped with new classrooms and facilities for CWU's physics and geology departments, which are outgrowing their current spaces in Lind Hall.

"These are two of our high-demand science programs, so those students and faculty have something exciting to look forward to," said CWU President James Gaudino in a press release.

The new building will provide larger classrooms and additional unique facilities on campus for physics and geology.

"The new building will give us access to modern classrooms, laboratories, and instrumentation," said Carey Gazis, geology department chair. "We will be able to teach in different ways than we have been and there will be new directions that we can go with our research."

One of the unique facilities is an anechoic chamber, a room in which the ceiling,

floor and walls are lined with sound-absorbent foam that minimizes sound reflection.

The room has its own foundation, project manager Joanne Hillemann said, which removes potential interference from footsteps. The physics department will use the chamber to test sensitive equipment and instruments.

Additionally, the new building will host a new planetarium that is tied with the Bechtel National Planetarium at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, Washington for the largest in the state, Hillemann said.

The planetarium will seat 80 people and doubles as a lecture room. According to Hillemann, there will be planetarium shows open to students once it is operational.

Students will even be able to make their own planetarium presentations with the free software, Worldwide Telescope. This allows students to work with professors in class on shows, Hillemann said.

The building also hosts an observatory tower that will be equipped with a research-grade telescope. According to Hillemann, the observatory will be open to the public as long as they're accompanied by a faculty or staff member.



McKenzie Lakey/Observer

Additionally, the roof has concrete pedestals equipped with power for smaller telescopes.

Construction of Science Phase II began on May 1, 2014, and the project costs around \$64 million, according to Hillemann.

The building was designed with faculty and students in mind so it is much more accessible than the other science buildings, she said.

Hillemann said, faculty are currently condensed into one area in their respective halls,

while Science II will spread them out and allow them to pick the offices they want.

"One of the benefits of doing this is the professors can have offices closer to the labs they work in," Hillemann said. "They can select an office based on where they do their work."

Construction has finished and foot-traffic has opened up next to the building.

CWU facilities staff are currently testing the building's audio and video systems and the project is current-

ly in the "move-in" phase, Hillemann said.

Over the summer, most faculty offices, labs and equipment will be moved from their current locations in various buildings around campus. According to Hillemann, the move will require a lot of time and work.

"It didn't make sense to move the faculty in the middle of the quarter," she said. "If they're teaching, it's too much to ask that they pack up their whole office."

Veteran memorial to be in front of library

By Joey Castonguay

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Central Washington University has decided to place a veteran’s memorial near the east entrance of Brooks library, after careful consideration.

“I am really honored that the [student government] decided to put it up at this end of campus. I think it is a beautiful spot for it,” Patricia Cutright, dean of libraries said. “It is a priority. Our veterans are some people that we’ve really tried to welcome back to campus and when they want to come ahead and finish their degrees it’s a really important thing. As we all know our ROTC, Air Force and Army ROTCs are extremely important component of the student body.”

Cutright said she thinks it’s a great idea and really commends this year’s student government for taking initiative on the project.

According to Hauke Harfst, ASCWU vice



McKenzie Lakey / Observer

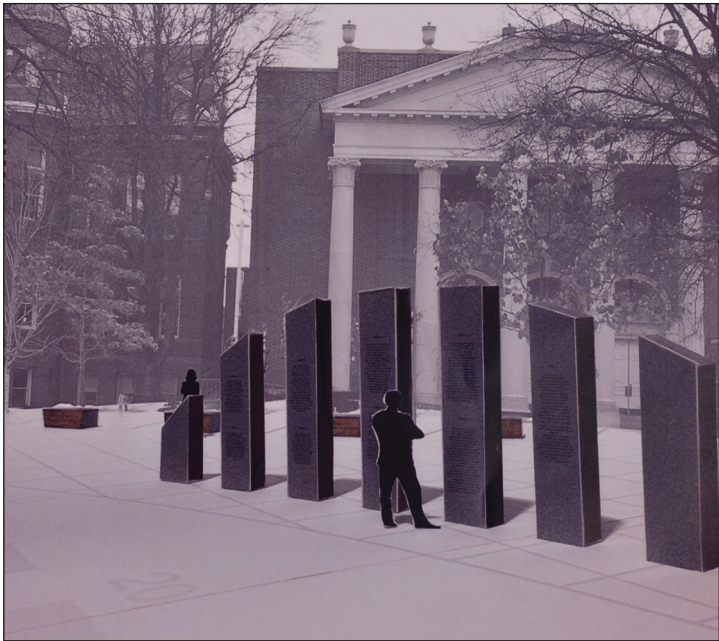
The left photo is where the statue will be located and the right photo is an artist reneidion of what the memorial will look like, the names might be engraved in gold.

president of academic affairs, the structure will have several basalt columns that follow a simple ark. The basalt will be quarried in the region.

The structure will cover roughly 37 feet and have close to 100 names on the list

from the last few years, but the ASCWU is doing their best to confirm them through the Department of Defense.

The names they do have confirmed have been submitted to the Alumni Association, to check if they have taken



Courtesy of The ASCWU

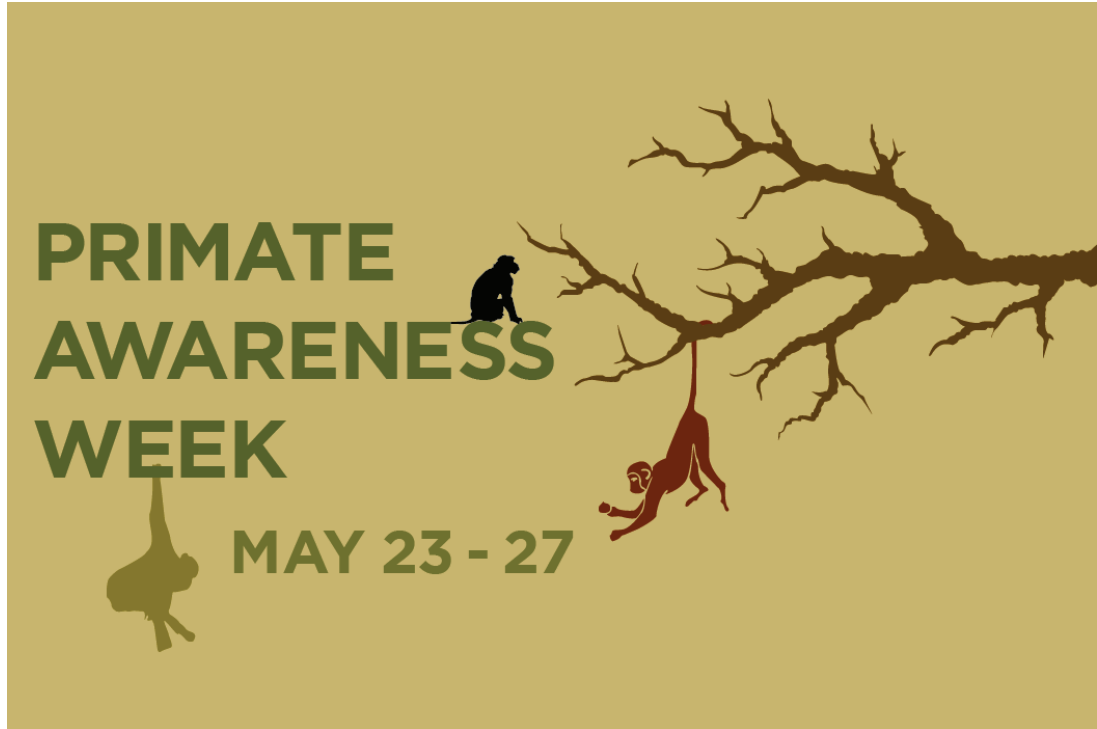
courses at CWU. The names listed are those of veterans who are deceased.

Harfst said he thinks the alumni names could be written in gold on the wall.

Other locations were discussed, such as in front of

McConnell and the science lawn, but ultimately, the decision was made to place it in front of Brooks.

“One side will have the names of Washington state veterans that have been killed in action since 9/11,” Harfst said.



Ryan Moffat / Observer

By Clarissa Posner

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Central Washington University sets itself apart from other schools by being the only university in the country that offers both an M.S. degree and undergraduate program in primatology.

“The undergraduate primate behavior and ecology program has about 30 students. The Graduate Primate Behavior program has about 20 students,” Jake Funkhouser, senator of the Primate Awareness Network said. These dedicated students study primate behaviors.

Last Saturday was the beginning of CWU’s Primate Awareness Week, which is being put on by the Primate Awareness Network. CWU has had a Primate Awareness Network Club since 2008.

“Our students travel all over the world to collect research on a variety of issues in primatology,” Funkhouser said. “Dr. Lori Sheeran leads a research site in The Valley of the Wild Monkey in China for research on Tibetan macaques. I did my research on howler monkey, capuchin, and spider monkey rescue, rehabilitation, and release on the Chiriquí Peninsula of Panama.”

Funkhouser said many CWU students study at the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest in Cle Elum. They can work one-on-one with the staff to gain more experience in captive care.

Primate Awareness Week started on May 21 and will end on May 27.

On Monday, Pledge for Primates was held on the west patio of the Student Union and Recreation Center. And allowed students to pledge to protect primate life.

On Tuesday, Diana Go-

odrich, Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest co-director discussed the challenges that face people who retire primates from research and entertainment.

Additionally, there was a presentation from the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA).

On Wednesday, Denise Spaan, National Geographic young explorer, spoke on the challenges that face spider monkeys.

“We’re hoping the Pledge for Primates event will bring the most educational conservation awareness,” Funkhouser said. “But we’re all excited to meet and hear from Dr. Crickette Sanz, who is a Central alumni and co-director of an amazing wild chimpanzee field-site in Africa.”

Sanz will be the last event of Primate Awareness Week. She will talk about the Goulougo Triangle Ape Project.

CWU celebrates Pride



Julia Moreno / Observer

By Julia Moreno

news@cwuobserver.com | @JuliaMoreno27

The Stars and Stripes and Washington’s Evergreen had a new companion—a rainbow—on the flag pole high atop Barge Hall on the Central Washington University campus on May 23.

The new flag, a rectangle with six bands of bright color, symbolizes LGBTQIA+ pride and was raised to mark the start of CWU Pride Week.

It was the first time the Rainbow flag has flown over Barge Hall, which was built in 1893 and is the oldest building on campus.

“As with all flags, it is symbolic of something much greater than its constituent colors, all six of which have meaning,” said Patrick Carpenter, president of EQuAl (Equality through Queers and Allies). “The rainbow itself represents a group whose identities and presentations all work harmoniously together towards their goal.”

Carpenter was one of several people who spoke in the Barge Hall courtyard prior to the flag raising. He said the flag

is raised to the highest point on campus so everything under that flag is now creating a norm that is love, acceptance and belonging on campus.

CWU President James Gaudino said he was happy to see the flag above Barge Hall, which is the university’s main administrative building because, “it’s a symbol of the inclusive environment that we have created and want to continue to develop at Central Washington University.”

Gaudino said the flag is a symbol or gesture of the university saying ‘yes you really belong here’ and not only belong here but feel comfortable being on campus as well.

Gaudino was followed by ASCWU board member, Olivia Durham. Durham told a crowd of about 30 people, that groups like EQuAl have shown commitment to the campus and Ellensburg to empower individuals.

The flag will stay up on top of Barge Hall for the rest of Pride Week, which is from Monday, May 30 to Saturday, June 4.

See related story on page 9

NEWS

EDITOR: JULIA MORENO | news@cwuobserver.com

“Problem” from page 1

A campus scorn

If you search “CWU” and “parking” on Twitter, you’re almost guaranteed to see at least one tweet a day about a bad parking experience.

“Parking in 30 minute parking and accepting the ticket just because parking is that difficult #CWU,” one student tweeted on May 19.

Thirty-eight students participated in a poll on the Observer’s Twitter page, and zero percent said parking was “Fabulous,” 18 percent said it was “Meh” and 82 percent said it was “A dark pit of despair.”

“Is there a problem with parking? You could say that there is,” says Eric Twaites, a campus police captain and the head of parking services.

He’s only been in charge of parking services for about 8 months. But in that short amount of time, Twaites has noticed one glaring constant: convenience.

“It’s not so much a lack of parking, it’s a lack of convenient parking,” he says. “Parking is not a glamorous topic.”

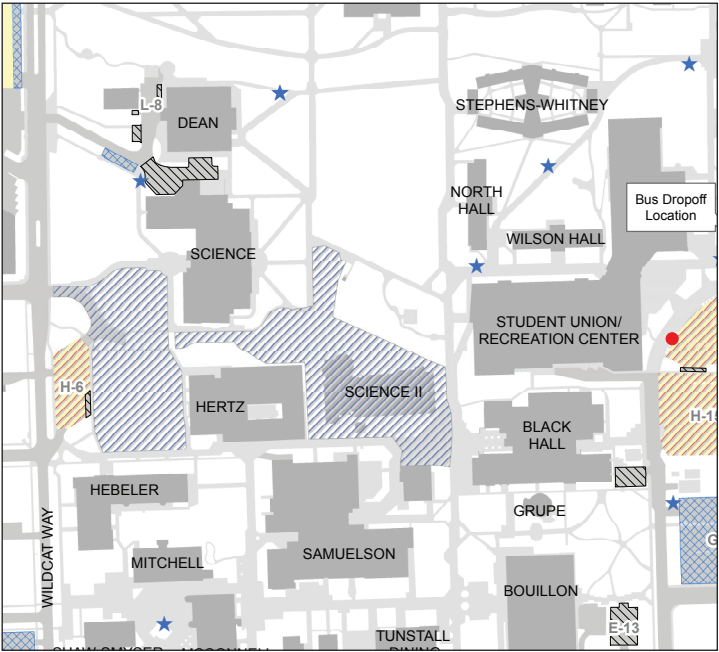
According to the CWU parking map, the lots with the largest amount of spots are located north of campus on Dean Nicholson Boulevard., where most classes aren’t. And a large portion of off-campus student housing is located north of campus, on E 18th Avenue and onward.

It can take anywhere from 15



Charles Harding/Observer

The left photo shows a student circling the lot outside of Hebel hall. The photo on the right shows H6 in yellow where the student is attempting to park.



Courtesy of Parking Services

minutes to 20 minutes to walk to campus from these areas. Meaning, many students would prefer to drive to class. And naturally, they want to park near the heart of the campus, Twaites says.

During “peak hours” – from about 8 a.m. to noon – most lots on the south side of campus can fill completely, while the north lots have many vacant spots.

It’s during these peak times that many students can feel cheated. While parking services does sell more passes than spots, Twaites says, not every student is parking every day.

Another common complaint is the amount of 30-minute parking spots CWU has, despite the fact that there are only 74 on campus. Many stu-

dents use the 30-minute spots when they can’t find a general spot, and will usually return to find a ticket on their car.

The cost is about \$15, and these can add up quickly.

“I’ve gotten probably about seven tickets,” Hansen says. “It really is crazy because I’ve basically almost paid for two [quarters of] parking passes.”

How to fix it

A solution to the problem isn’t as simple as most students think, Twaites says. Many lots on campus never fill up completely, even during peak hours. It’s the convenient lots that are the source of students’ scorn.

And it’s not as easy as just creating more lots,

since most of the space on campus is already accounted for.

One idea toyed around with by students is building a parking garage on the vacant fields that flank the campus, complete with a shuttle.

But Twaites questions whether students would actually enjoy a large concrete building dominating the skyline.

“Is that really the focal point of what you wanna see when you come to Central, is a cool parking garage?” he says.

Other suggestions Twaites has heard include taking away parking passes completely and instead making parking a mandatory fee similar to the tech and athletic fees students pay each quarter. While that would

help curb parking tickets, he says it could also lead to fewer spots overall, since if everyone could park for free, everyone might park for free.

While the university figures all of that technical stuff out, some students have taken matters into their own hands (and feet) and have started walking or riding their bike.

Hansen is one of those students, and now he no longer deals with the headache of finding a spot before class. But that doesn’t stop him from sharing his opinion.

“Parking?” he says. “It really sucks.”

STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF INSTRUCTION

Wellington

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MUST BE 21 OR OVER

NEWS

EDITOR: JULIA MORENO | news@cwuobserver.com

Demand for dorms

Increase of freshmen creates a need for more living spaces on campus

By George Rohwer

RohwerG@cwu.edu

Central Washington University is expecting 21 percent more incoming freshmen next year, as compared to the usual amount.

"We are projecting an estimated 1,850 to 1,900 incoming freshmen for the 2016-2017 school year," said Richard DeShields, associate dean of student living.

According to DeShields, conference buildings such as Green Hall and Carmody Hall are going to be vacated in order to house the overflow of freshmen.

DeShields went on to say that "Barto Hall might also be used if there are enough freshmen to fill up Green and Carmody. The building was built with additional bed space."

Conference buildings, which are usually used for a variety of different housing opportunities, such as summer camps



Charles Harding/Observer

and lodging for parents, will be used for additional space for freshmen, and they will cost about the same as Al-Monty.

But why do we have such an influx of freshmen?

"After we used a new strategic recruitment plan, and conducted various surveys, we came to the understanding that incoming freshmen are looking for three major things in a school: cost, the ability to receive the major that they want, and always having something to do, like going to an event," said Richard Moreno, director of research and content management.

Maybe you've noticed that CWU has altered the main page of the website recently. The site was changed to satisfy the three major things that are looked for in a school.

Moreno also mentioned that "we've had a lot of positive rankings. The Economist ranked us as the number one college for 'More Bang For Buck.'"

"Central is surrounded by wilderness hikes, sports events, there's the gorge nearby, the weather is diverse, the school is diverse," Moreno said. "I could keep going, but the point is Ellensburg is an appealing place for students."

"Wage" from page 3

Going out of Business

CWU lecturer David Douglas has lived in Ellensburg since 2001. Douglas feels like the cost of living is a big factor in a minimum wage of \$15.

"I think it's appropriate in areas that have above-average cost of living," Douglas says.

If minimum wage of \$15 does not become a federal standard, Douglas does not believe that the city of Ellensburg would ever pass a law about it. There are significantly more conservative voters in town than there are progressive voters.

If Washington state does pass a law about \$15 minimum wage, Douglas believes that Ellensburg would adapt, but some small businesses could be heavily affected by it.

"If it's a small business and they're accustomed to paying minimum wage primarily to their employees, and then you add the taxes you have to pay on each of those employees. If you force them to increase their base wage by 50 percent from \$10 an hour to \$15 an hour, that's a pretty significant increase in labor cost, which cuts into the bottom line," Douglas says.

Jason Shaw, the store manager and his wife Denise Shaw, the owner of Nerdcore Toys

and Collectibles, said they believed a minimum wage increase to \$15 would kill small businesses. Jason Shaw explained how increasing the minimum wage to \$10 or \$12 right now wouldn't be too bad, but jumping straight to \$15 an hour would not be a wise idea.

Denise Shaw, with a scowl on her face, mentioned how a minimum wage increase to \$15 would be alright for big corporations because they could afford to pay their employees that much and it would mean more business for them. They wouldn't have to try to compete with multiple small businesses offering similar products to what they sell.

Irwin also mentioned that she was worried about small businesses going out of business or laying off workers because of any increase in the minimum wage.

"I feel like just because they don't have that competitive advantage over big companies that make millions a year, they could struggle with paying employees that much and it also could result in them laying off employees, which could cause a bad rep for them," Irwin says. "It could potentially backfire if people are upset enough, they could write bad reviews of the company or persuade others away from that company."

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OPINION

EDITOR: JONATHAN GLOVER | editor@cwuobserver.com

Over the Hill, down in the Trumps and totally Bernt out?



By Brittany Allen

photo@cwuobserver.com | @brighteyesnw

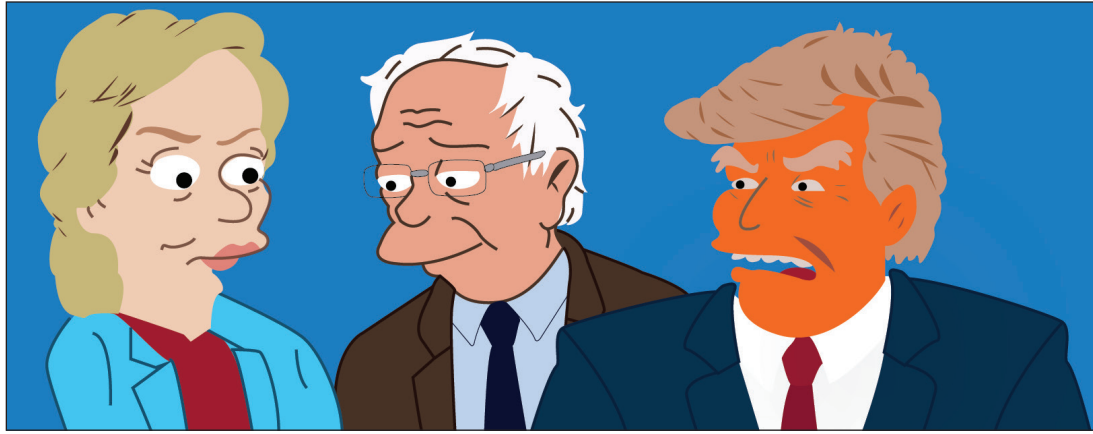
I'm going to preface this with the fact that in this opinion I am not going to tell you whom my vote goes to—because right now it doesn't matter.

Right now the topic is as simple as this: Presidential election processes are becoming too damn long.

I personally love politics—I am in fact graduating with a degree in political science—and I do get excited to know who my options will be when the election year rolls around, but that's it: the election *year*. Not the two-year circus or decade of donkeys versus elephants. The election *year*.

In all seriousness, this act of putting the cart before the [insert preferred party animal here] is not actually new. It's just far more publicized than it has been in the past. Campaigns have been stretching longer and longer since the '70s.

According to The Econo-



Ryan Moffat/The Observer

mist, “[c]ampaigns grew longer after the Democrats re-wrote their party rules to give more weight to primary elections in the states rather than secretive negotiations at the nominating convention. This forced candidates to make their pitches directly to ordinary voters, which takes longer...The Republicans followed suit.”

The initial idea, to me, sounds great; the reasoning seems sound, but where did this derail? I understand the idea of the early politician getting the name recognition, but I can't imagine that this monotonous period of bickering is what people had in mind when they first implemented the policy.

In college, a lot of professors try to teach you to be “concise” and cut as much fat from around your argument as possible. And I would assume that most presidential hopefuls have in fact been told the same as they are highly educated people.

But starting last year, everybody and their idiot, billionaire cousin (yes, Drumpf, I mean you), threw their hat in the ring before there would seemingly even be a ring, which inundated our media outlets with around-the-clock debate. Quite frankly, I'm already burnt out.

This election technically “formally” got its first contender March of 2015 when Ted Cruz spoke the words “It is a time for

truth, it is a time for liberty, it is a time to reclaim the Constitution of the United States,” according to a New York Times article from the same week.

To the roaring crowd of Virginia college students, these words were probably full of hope, sparking the beginning of whatever kind of (terribly backwards) change they saw Ted Cruz bringing to the Oval Office. But when symbols become sound bites and are replayed over and over and over again, it gets tiring and, often times, annoying.

Other countries have the right idea. Britain's elections, though their politicians have similar incentive to begin cam-

paigned and fundraising early on, “don't really begin in the public's mind until the queen dissolves parliament, five weeks before voting day,” according to The New York Times.

This shorter time frame would be beneficial not only to the everyday constituent like me—who is almost starting to hate their own candidate for filling their email inbox with pleas for donations on a daily basis—but to the candidates.

“Fatigue” is not exclusive to us hard-working Americans who just want to be able to turn on the news without seeing the sick love child of Jabba the Hutt and a block of cheddar cheese flapping his yap about building a wall.

Hillary, Bernie, Jabba—aren't you tired? I know a lot of your supporters would like to think you might have the drive to run again if you don't make it to the top during this election cycle.

If many of your qualifications come from your current positions as senators and governors and entrepreneurs and state actors, maybe running for president shouldn't take over as your full-time job.

If you're too busy vying for the job of running the free world, who's doing your job?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student government should prioritize communication with satellite campuses

Quality communication is the backbone of success for any organization. It is also the basis for the majority of the courses of study here at Central Washington University.

In my opinion, the ASCWU, under current leadership, has abandoned the very core of CWU's desire to turn out quality and productive students. I can only hope the new administration does better at communication than the old.

Open communication between the ASCWU and students attending classes through all seven campuses would be the first step in building a single, cohesive and dynamic environment, throughout the entire student body of CWU.

In nearly all classes provided here at CWU, we are given assignments which emphasize the necessity of communication. Since I have been associated with CWU, there have been numerous occasions where communication has been an afterthought to a program or event. Below, there is a perfect example of what the branch campuses receive.

Students, faculty and staff at the various satellite campuses deserve to have information on the same basis as those in Ellensburg. Communication helps distant members of CWU feel they are contributing members of the community.

When I first contacted the

ASCWU regarding communication between ALL campus locations, communication, over any other project, was the most important project the ASCWU wished to address. Since that meeting, the ASCWU has made Ellensburg projects their main priority, effectively abandoning approximately 10 percent of the student population, continuously pushing improved communication down the priority list, until it has become an incompletable task.

During the course of this year, there have been two significant successes. The most important was the establishment of Live Video Broadcasting of ASCWU public meetings to the branch campuses.

But this achievement was quickly silenced when the ASCWU decided it was in their best interest to have the meetings on Friday mornings—a day of the week when there are few or no students at branch campuses, making it extremely unlikely that branch campus students would participate.

The second achievement was the creation of the Branch Campus Student Liaison position for the ASCWU. This posi-

tion promised to be a direct line of communication to the ASCWU. However, like the public meetings, the position was quickly muted by the very members who created it, by their lack of response to repeated queries requesting guidance and assistance.

“The ASCWU has failed to recognize the momentous opportunity available to them through, the students, faculty, and staff, willing to work together.”

Requests not only from myself, but from other students, faculty and staff members. Of all the requests for assistance sent, ASCWU has lost, misplaced, or ignored most inquiries.

Upon reading the memorandum the ASCWU drafted in response to my last query, I am saddened by the ASCWU's decision to take no action on the matter. Each and every person at CWU that I have spoken to has conveyed their appreciation for my attention to such an enormous and far-reaching task.

The ASCWU has failed to recognize the momentous opportunity available to them through the students, faculty, and staff, willing to work together. Their decision to take no action means an opportunity has been lost.

Daniel Smelser
Des Moines Student Liaison,
ASCWU



Tweets from the streets



Emm Klueber @emmaleighanne9 · 6m
#LoveYourMelon



CWU Physics @CWU_Physics · May 17

Sneak peek in Science 2, new home to #CWUPHYSICS & Geology, opening Fall 2016. Just Add You! #CWUPride



15 23

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SCENE

EDITOR: VICTORIA SHAMRELL | scene@cwuobserver.com

PEOPLE OF ELLENSBURG



Charles Harding/The Observer

Michael Waytuck, B.S. in electrical engineering technology

“As my time here at Central has evolved, I’ve gotten more interested in renewable energy and other aspects of that, so basically, I just try to develop skills that will benefit me in the future. When I was working on my graduate project, I had a sensor that I was using, not giving appropriate voltages or outputs, and it was basically saying when the wind was realistically zero miles per hour, outside, it was displaying 44 miles per hour. “Harnessing the Wind,” or my graduate project, is basically a Hogue wind turbine. There’s a turbine on the corner of Hogue and if you go out to the street by the stadium, you can just look back at Hogue, and see it. It’s generating power for the building, it’s not a whole lot of power compared to what the building consumes, but it’s meant to basically inspire others to be interested in that stuff.”



SCOTT FISCHER

Photo Courtesy of Grace Baird

Grace Baird model in Davies Hall

“It’s never easy or glamorous. As a model, you have to sometimes be in places or positions that aren’t comfortable, easy or fun. Sometimes, you’re in excruciating pain, crazy hot or freezing cold. I’ve gotten frostbite, hypothermia, and even bit by a brown recluse and hospitalized. You have to be passionate to still love it and continue to work at it. I’ve been able to become more confident in my own skin. My self-confidence has grown so much and I’m able to branch out more and try new things.”

OBSERVER HEALTH



Ask Dr. H

Dear Dr. H,

How do the sexual behaviors of CWU students compare to those of religiously affiliated colleges/universities? How do the sexual behaviors of students of public colleges/universities compare to those of religiously affiliated colleges/universities?

Dear anonymous,

Sex and religion ... always an interesting combo. My guess (hope) is that you aren’t asking me to actually conduct this study because, simply put, there is no current data to answer your exact question in a timely manner.

What further complicates this question is what you mean by “sexual behaviors” and “religious affiliation.” While we can get info on students’ oral, anal, and vaginal sex frequency and number of partners (data I shared in last week’s column,) that’s a fairly limited glimpse into “sexual behaviors.”

And, while there is a common designation of “religiously-affiliated” for institutions to subscribe, or not, there exists a spectrum of the extent to which these schools really affiliate with a religion – and while schools can affiliate, it doesn’t necessarily mean that the students affiliate.

A good case in point: a recent study of college women found that those attending Catholic universities reported more “hook ups” (defined as casual physical sexual encounters) and those at Protestant universities reported less “hook ups” compared to women at non-religiously affiliated institutions.

However, what it really came down to was how religious the actual student was, in practice; that is, regardless of attending a religiously affiliated college, women who went to church more often reported fewer hook ups. Women at the Catholic institutions reported more hooks ups, but they also went to church less.

So, sexual behaviors had less to do with the affiliation of the institution and more to do with the affiliation of the person. Then again, sexual behaviors in this case were “casual physical sexual encounters” and likely includes everything from kiss-

ing to sex and everything in between – quite a range that might be worth further investigation.

I’m guessing you’re curious about the relationship between religion and sex, and the existing research on this is inconsistent: Some research shows that “religious” people delay sex longer/have less partners compared to non-religious counterparts, and other research finds no difference. It really depends on how ‘sexually active’ and ‘religiosity’ were defined.

Attending a religious institution as well, seems not to be a clear predictor of sexual behaviors. “Affiliation” is a loose term- both academic institutions and people attach different meanings to it.

With the exception of, say, Brigham Young University (BYU) where there are few non-Mormons in attendance, and the school adheres strictly to the teachings of the Mormon religion, students at a religiously affiliated institution may be much different than those somewhere else.

BYU, and some others, also have policies about coeds mingling in dorms, for example, or prohibit cohabitation between students of opposite sex unless they are married. Policies such as these would just make sex for singles more difficult.

All this is to say that whether a person has sex – or the kinds of sex they are having – is influenced by a whole host of factors, and religion is just one of them.

Given the diversity of students’ experiences, values, cultures, norms, etc., it would oversimplify the issue to draw conclusions on the protective nature of the institution type in its relation to students’ sexual behavior.

And, quite frankly, there are just so many sexual behaviors not asked about in survey research to really get a full picture of the situation.

Dr. Jill Hoxmeir is a public health professor at CWU.

Send anonymous public health and sex related questions to askdrh@cwuobserver.com and have them answered here.

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SCENE

EDITOR: VICTORIA SHAMRELL | scene@cwuobserver.com

Rainbow flag kicks off Pride Week

"Proud" from page 1

Carpenter said this is the biggest Pride Week has ever been and that prior to this year, the club would have only put on a dance and a drag.

"We're having a block party where organizations and clubs who support us can come and show off, we're having a live recording of our radio show "The Big Queer Dance Party" with pizza and promotional merchandise, and we are collaborating with Pride of Ellensburg, a new non-profit which is putting on the first pride festival in town," Carpenter said.

In the latest press release for pride week, Nikki Marra, EQuAl faculty adviser and 88.1, the Burg program director, said "I think it's really important to the queer community. This is the first time they've had the chance to celebrate who they are with the people of the community."

Ishmael Stinson, CWU alumni, said he's never been to Pride Week here at CWU because he's never met anyone that passionate about the topic to bring him along.

But as an open-minded individual, he said he would be open to attending such an event and believes the Ellensburg commu-

nity will accept Pride Week with open arms.

"Honestly I think everyone is growing more accustomed to the level of freedom and expression that makes everyone feel confident," Stinson said. "It's great that we live in an era where all voices can be heard. Great time to be alive."

Stinson believes an event like this that is in such support of individual freedom of expression is definitely something to be excited about and thinks the surrounding community should not only accept these expressions, but also embrace them.

Other activities taking place during the celebration include a dyke rally, a field day full of skills competitions, relay races and dodgeball, CWU amateur and a professional drag shows. A special film on Michael Sam highlighting his groundbreaking journey as the first openly gay player to ever be drafted by an NFL team, and the big queer dance party – in which participants can get a blank t-shirt and run through a course with powered paint setups along the way.

The week will end Saturday with the pride parade, featuring performances by Kiy Kiy Alexia, Troupe Rose Lavender Country, Aquasha DeLusty and Friends, ending with a puppy drag show, and the Queer Prom, inviting all students out



Julia Moreno/The Observer

For the first time since Barge hall was built in 1893, the LGBTQIA+, rainbow flag is flying high over the hall for Pride Week.

to a neon-glow masquerade themed dance.

Pride week is sure to be filled with positivity and enthusiasm.

Come out with some friends and celebrate "One Proud World" with live music, fun games and some good pizza.

See related story about the EQuAl organization on page 10, and a complete calendar of events on page 14.



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EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
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EQuAl creates acceptance for all

By Sarah Hoot
Hoots@cwu.edu

Central Washington University is a school that prides itself on diversity and acceptance of all students, and strives to ensure that those students feel like they are in a safe and welcoming environment.

Equality through Queers and Allies (EQuAl) is an organization that strives to create an atmosphere for students from all walks of life and educate others on civil rights issues within the community.

According to Patrick Carpenter, senior and president of EQuAl, nobody's quite sure when the organization started.

"It started off as a group that had to meet kind of clandestinely in different rooms around campus, very much hidden, when you know, being a part of the queer community wasn't as accepted," Carpenter said. "It really started growing in the early '90's and as the 2000's came, the club became official."

EQuAl was created based on a student need to have a place where queer people could go and be around other members of the queer community. That way, they can have a place where people respect who they are and share their identity.

"When you come into

Meetings

When: Every Tuesday
Where: SURC 135
Time: 6 p.m.

EQuAl, you know that your identity and your existence is going to be respected," Carpenter said.

Now the organization has their own room that they can use for their meetings instead of having to move around like they used to.

The room is a benefit because it is easy to find, but still in a side room which is good for people who may not feel as confident in their identity. They can come in and not feel like they are going to be singled out.

The space is not only open to members of the queer community. EQuAl also includes local community members and a large number of "allies."

Victoria Robertson, senior and radio coordinator for EQuAl, and Carpenter both agree that being an ally is not something that you can get a degree in and then do nothing, it is a daily commitment.

An ally has to be the person that stands up for a queer person when they do not feel comfortable and makes sure that



Chase Tibbles/The Observer

The EQuAl organization is all about creating an accepting atmosphere for all students and educating about civil rights issues.

they are respected and loved.

As times have changed, the queer community has continued to grow and expand to include a variety of different people who identify as "queer."

"The most common acronym that is used that we also try and follow is LGBTQIA+ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual], but I know that people in the community will shorthand it to something shorter," Robertson said.

This acronym, along with

others, has helped people within the queer community take pride in who they are. Where before taunts like "smear the queer" were used to torment those in the community, now the members use that term proudly as a way to break the status quo of society. However, using the term does vary from person to person.

"We are an open community," Robertson said. "We try and validate people when they come to our meetings, just to give vali-

dation to how they feel."

Along with Pride Week, which is their main event, EQuAl also hosts a variety of other programs including coffee chats every third Thursday of the month, Drag Bingo featuring drag performers from the area and Q&A With A Gay in the residence halls.

All of these activities, and more, help EQuAl to provide representation for the queer community here in Ellensburg and on campus.



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SCENE

EDITOR: VICTORIA SHAMRELL | scene@cwuobserver.com

Art around campus



Jordan Cameron/The Observer

Central has a wide collection of public art on the campus. Each piece is unique and has a different back story to it.



Jordan Cameron/The Observer

By Kory Hollingsworth

Kory.Hollingsworth@cwu.edu

Across Central Washington University's campus, a number of sculptures decorate the grass and pathways leading to academic buildings, but where do these sculptures come from? What is the story behind the sculptures and other art pieces that beautify CWU's campus?

CWU retains a large collection of artwork ranging from sculpture, woodcarving, painting and other mediums. Art Department Chair Gregg Schlanger describes how art is collected and created for campus with assistance from the state arts commission, 'ArtsWA.'

"The state of Washington [has] the second oldest 'percent for arts' program in the country. Hawaii, I think, was the very first one. So in a way, Washington is a leader," Schlanger said.

Whenever a new building is constructed, or large-scale renovations are completed, a portion of the construction budget is required to be spent on art.

"A certain percentage of the cost of that capital project has to go for art. Generally, it ranges from half a percent to one percent," Schlanger said.

For example, if a building has a budget of \$1,000,000, then 1%, [or \$10,000] should be allocated to fund a commissioned art piece. To purchase an art piece, "a committee is formed and it's overseen and administered by the state's arts commission," Schlanger said.

The state arts commission collects a pool of applicants based on their experience. In the case of the new Science Phase II building, over one-hundred artists were considered. According

to Schlanger, an artist from Los Angeles will be working on the art piece for Science Phase II.

CWU is currently working to approve art funding for the Samuelson remodel, which is poised for completion in 2018.

"Last year, student government decided and wrote a resolution to designate [roughly] \$1000 a year to purchase artwork from the student art show," Schlanger said.

This year a collection of graphic design prints were purchased for display. In addition, "there are some other things around campus that are residue from students of long ago that have remained here," Schlanger said.

For these large-scale art projects, plenty of time is required to finish an art piece for display. Kathleen Barlow, department chair and professor of anthropology and museum studies commented on the process to commission the vase structures in front of Dean Hall.

"You're supposed to offer the artist a range of ideas and options that will be themes, and locations for the art, and then it's hands off. They should have the artistic freedom to do what they want," Barlow said.

According to Barlow, work on the vases began in 2007 and concluded in 2009. Local Seattleite Benson Shaw was commissioned for the project. Originally, one of Benson's vases was to depict a native wildcat, but unfortunately, the university turned the design down for not reflecting the university's pre-established logo.

Barlow and Schlanger both commented on the importance of art on campus.

"We are an institution of [higher education] and I think that public art, good public art, stimulates the brain. Whether you like it or not isn't always necessarily as important as it makes you think... I believe that is a part of the learning process," Schlanger said.

While Barlow said, "I think it just enriches our environment and gives us an aesthetic dimension to our day to have these things to pass by... it's thought provoking... It opens up your thinking and your feeling about the world you are in. It doesn't have to be verbal, technical, it should be artistic as well."

In recent years, art on campus has faced challenges.

"There has always been a need to support the art on campus and we've been through difficult economic times," Barlow said.

Another threat to campus art is a lack of organization and responsibility.

"There have been major pieces of art on this campus that have disappeared," Barlow said. He explained that sometimes art can be misplaced or moved without proper authorization and record keeping. Barlow theorizes that when a professor does not like an art piece in their office, they will store it away in a closet where it will be forgotten in time.

Barlow later explained that museum studies students have attempted to recover lost art, going from building to building to locate art on campus.

As a whole, art on campus should be appreciated more. Students should take a moment and question an art piece and consider the artist's motivations.



Photo Courtesy of Candace Payne

The Chewbacca Mom video has become an internet sensation because of her joy.

By Maria Harr

harr.mariak@gmail.com |

@MiaTheGeek

Everybody is talking about Chewbacca Mom. I know, such a cliché to start an article with, but it really does seem like everyone is talking about the viral video of a mother laughing herself silly with a Chewbacca mask on.

If you're unfamiliar with the video, do yourself a favor and watch it – the video is less than five minutes and I'm willing to bet it will make you laugh.

The woman behind the mask, Candace Payne, made many a person's day when she uploaded the footage of her strapping the mask on and giggling away.

A number of websites, talk shows and articles have discussed what exactly it is that made the video such a hit (over 140,000,000 views!) with so many different kinds of people, and the answer seems to be the simplicity of it.

Payne isn't doing anything outrageous, or stupid – she's not telling jokes, doing pranks or performing a trick. She's just happy.

The happiness, and her great laugh, infected viewers and made them happy too. So they shared it to make other people laugh and it's glorious in its simplicity.

For students, who are busy and often overwhelmed with schoolwork, extracurricular activities or work, the simple things are a gift not to be squandered.

It's not everyday that the In-

ternet is treated to something both so pure and so entertaining. Often you'll have to make a choice between one or the other.

Payne bared her silly side in a way not many of us feel comfortable doing – heck, she was roaring with laughter (and Wookiee noises) in a parking lot, seemingly not caring at all what anyone outside of her car thought she was doing.

It sounds corny, but Payne can be an inspiration to us all, to let out some childlike joy now and again. Worry less about seeming silly and more on enjoying that silliness when it happens.

Payne isn't doing anything outrageous, or stupid – she's not telling jokes, doing pranks or doing a trick. She's just happy.

We're getting to a point in the quarter when it gets harder and harder to chill out and de-stress from your day.

There's less than two weeks before the end of the quarter, and for many seniors, the end of their school career.

The pressure can build up dangerously in these times of heavy stress. Take a little time and allow yourself to be silly for silliness' sake.

Blow bubbles in your drink, color in your coloring book outside of the lines.

Sing with a silly voice in the shower, talk like a pirate, let yourself daydream--just don't let yourself get overwhelmed.

Chewbacca Mom saw a chance to make herself happy and she took it, and through that was able to make other people happy as well.

Let Payne be your inspiration for happiness – remember, sometimes it just takes a Chewbacca mask.

Stay happy, everyone.



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SPORTS

EDITOR: ZAC HERETH | sports@cwuobserver.com

Track & Field

Wildcats sprint to nationals

By Samuel Beaumonte

Samuel.A.Beaumonte@hotmail.com | @CrimsonGlacier

Four Wildcat student-athletes compete in Bradenton, Florida today in search of All-American performances at nationals.

These four athletes get their shot at glory after helping lead Central Washington University to second-place and fourth-place finishes on the women's and men's sides of the GNAC Conference Championship Meet.

"I'm more excited than I was last year, and I think we all have similar attitudes about going and representing Central," said senior long distance runner Erin Chinchar. "But it's important for us all to enjoy the experience, since we worked so hard to get here."

In addition to Chinchar, two other athletes going to nationals are returners who have experienced national competition before.

"This is my fifth time going to nationals and it's been a blessing," said senior high jumper Taylor Fettig. "I'm really looking forward to going again. This year I've grown mentally and allowed myself to visualize the high heights that I can reach."

Senior long distance runner



Jordan Cameron/The Observer

Dani Eggleston (fourth from right) and Erin Chinchar (far right) are both returning to nationals to compete in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

National Competitors

Women:

Dani Eggleston- Steeplechase, 10:23.58 (8th)

Erin Chinchar- Steeplechase, 10:38.10 (19th)

Taylor Fettig- High Jump, 1.77 meters (T-2nd)

Men:

Armando Tafoya- Hammer Throw, 58.04 meters (20th)

Dani Eggleston came dangerously close to missing out on her opportunity.

"It felt really good to get to nationals because I had overtrained the week before," Eggleston said. "I was really scared going into [the] GNAC [meet.] The week before, I had tried to run at my normal times, and I couldn't make it. At the Western [meet,] I ran the worst 5k I've ever ran before."

To combat her injuries, athletic trainers helped Eggleston rehab quickly.

"[Last] Tuesday I felt that fatigued feeling again, but now that I know the feeling, I know when to back off," Eggleston said. "My body just wasn't recovering like it should have been. I wasn't even going to



McKenzie Lakey/The Observer

Junior Armando Tafoya qualified for nationals in the hammer throw—one of the three events he competes in for the Wildcats.

run the 5k, but the girls were close to winning, and we got second place by five points. That was heartbreaking."

Sudden injuries aren't too uncommon for the sport, and Fettig shared similar concerns as Eggleston at the previous year's GNAC championships.

"Last year wasn't the best experience for me, I had a few injuries but I don't want to make any excuses for how it went," she said.

Fettig battled a heel injury during last year's conference championship meet. Her health this year hasn't been as much of an issue.

"My trainer Sebastian [Kurtz] has been a blessing this year and helped me recover quickly," she said. "Now I feel great going into nationals."

In addition to physical injuries, breaks from competi-

tion and practices are common issues for student-athletes who have a busy schedule during their competitive season. Those breaks in training can be just as worrisome when it comes to GNAC and national level performance.

"It was really exciting for me to make it to nationals since I took winter off," Chinchar said. "I went over to the Westside to student-teach, and I had planned to train, but I got busy, so I was bummed when I thought I wouldn't make it."

While athletic trainers are helpful for injuries, when it comes to absences and almost a full-quarter of missed practices, it's up to the coaches to try and balance everything out.

"Everyday when I was going to practice, I had my teammates and coach pushing me

to get there," Chinchar said. "I've been with [Coach Kevin Adkisson] for four years. He really knows what's best for all of the athletes and how to train them individually."

Most of CWU's student-athletes have experience at nationals, but junior Armando Tafoya is preparing for his first-shot at the competition. He qualified for nationals halfway through the season in the hammer throw.

"It's kind of a blessing and a curse making it so early, especially if you don't improve later in the season," Tafoya said. "I've been close before, but this was my first time making it. I'm going in at 19th place, and I'm going to go in and try to beat the guy above me, and the guy after that and try to get as far as I can. It's something I've always been wanting to do."

Outdoor/Recreation

Three places to get outdoor equipment

By Hunter Ventoza

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During spring, temperatures skyrocket and the days get longer. Ellensburg is known for its annual rodeo, but there's more than cattle herding in this town.

There is no shortage of nearby campgrounds, hiking trails or launch points to float the Yakima River, and almost all equipment needed for a weekend adventure can be rented from a shop in town.

Two large competitors in the rentals market include Mountain High Sports and Central Washington University's Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR).

Those options and more can be the start to anyone's weekend

journey, without having to commit to actually buying the supplies needed.

Mountain High Sports

Mountain High Sports is located in the heart of downtown Ellensburg, near the intersection of East Fourth Avenue and North Pearl Street.

Instead of strictly offering rentals, Mountain High is a retailer for outdoor gear. Having one of the largest selections in the area, Mountain High resembles a small scale REI.

Tents, backpacks, climbing shoes and paddle boards are a few of the items on the list of rentals offered. Picking up or dropping off rentals at Mountain High is hassle-free, since they're open seven days a week.

What sets Mountain High apart is their ski and snowboard packages, which can be rented per season rather than just day to day or week to week. Anyone can rent from Mountain High Sports, student or non student.

Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals

Commonly referred to as OPR, this shop is connected to the SURC building in the middle of campus. OPR stands out with its extensive selection of kayak and river floating equipment, which is not offered at nearby Mountain High Sports. Aside from a larger water sports-rental selection, OPR offers items like camp stoves, water purifiers and even sleeping bags.

According to trip leader Walter Lackey, the most common items rented by students depends on the time of the year.

"Summer it's inner tubes and rafts, any other time of the year it's just tents and sleeping bags," he said.

Other features of OPR are its guided trips, which give students the assistance of an expert on the next adventure. For these events, a flat-fee is charged that often includes transportation and equipment.

A major restriction of OPR is their exclusivity on who can rent: those eligible include students; staff; and current members of the Alumni Association, according to its website. Rental prices vary for students, staff and alumni.

Rill Adventures

Rill Adventures is a specialized rental shop for those looking to spend time around the water. They specialize in river rafting and fly fishing equipment. However, rental prices are a bit higher than others in the area. Rill also offers shuttles to the launch point and pick-up spot down the river for an added fee.

Rill offers professionally guided river floats or will supply renters with the gear and a push off the bank to guide their own trip.

Whether it's a raft to float the Yakima River or a tent and backpack for a multi-day mountain adventure, Ellensburg has a reasonably priced equipment option available.

SPORTS

EDITOR: ZAC HERETH | sports@cwuobserver.com

Volleyball



Courtesy of Central Athletics

Kiah Jones is an all-conference honorable mention on the court and Central's Biologist of the Year off of it.

Jones spikes competition in the lab, on the court

By Mitchell Johnson
Johnsomitc@cwu.edu | @SportsWithMitch

Junior Kiah Jones excels on the court smashing volleyballs at opponents. She also succeeds in the classroom (or lab room, in this case), finding ways to kill an internal parasite.

Jones was named Biologist of the Year by the Central Washington University's biology department, an award usually given to seniors leaving the university.

"I was really surprised just because in our department there's students doing research on such cool things, all across the board," Jones said.

Some of the research she is doing is with an intestinal parasite hookworm that is a big problem in subtropical areas that are high in poverty, such as Africa and South America. The parasite can make people anemic, and for children, it can stunt their intelligence and physical growth.

Jones is working on finding a plant solution to kill the hookworm. She made a presentation about this at the Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE), an annual showcase to present research.

Biology Professor Blaise Dondji said the problem is trying to kill the worm without killing the person affected.

Over a year ago, the department was awarded \$360,065 by the National Institute of Health for a three-year study on this subject. Jones has been working with Dondji for two years.

"Central's [biology] department has done a lot for me," Jones said. "All of the professors have been so helpful and inspiring—they're great people and love what they do."

Coming to CWU, Jones didn't know exactly what to major in, so she went with what interested her most. For Jones it's the cellular, molecular and pathways portion of biology that sparks her interest.

"I always find what's happening inside of us interesting," Jones said. "Even more than that, the immune system fascinates me."

Volleyball season starts three weeks before the school year begins, and for Jones it can be hard to manage both volleyball and biology with the team's travel schedule.

"It can be honestly really hectic and

stressful, and there are times where I'm freaking out," Jones said. "I'm really blessed everyone really comes together and helps me and works with me."

She is currently applying to medical schools to get into after graduation.

Jones, an outside hitter, is coming off a strong season on the court. For the second straight season, she was named to the GNAC All-Academic Team with a 3.93 GPA, and was an honorable mention to the All-GNAC team this past season.

She had 265 kills this season, for an average of 2.48 kills per set. In 2014, she had 264 kills, and an average of 3.18 kills per set.

Volleyball head coach Mario Andaya said Jones's talent and overall athleticism impress him.

"She's just grown as a volleyball player her last four years here," Andaya said.

Jones' love of volleyball began when she started playing in seventh grade. At that point, something clicked for her.

Jones loved celebrating winning a point with her team. This was where she thought a team came together and created a special bond.

She grew up in Port Angeles, an area where it isn't easy to be noticed by college scouts. She joined the Northwest Juniors volleyball team based out of Edmonds, a two-hour, two-ferry trip from her hometown, in order to be seen by college coaches.

Her parents were willing to pay for everything and got her to practice three days a week by taking turns driving.

Playing on the team got her noticed, and the constant traveling paid off for Jones.

Andaya said he liked how she played well above the net. He has known her coach for a long time, who had nothing but good things to say about her.

When Jones got here she met the team, coaches and walked about campus.

"I just knew automatically this is the place I wanted to be," Jones said.

Just like any college student, Jones' busy schedule is visible to people around her.

"She puts a lot of herself in all her passions. That's hard to do—you're splitting time between two, three areas and she's putting in everything she's got," Andaya said. "Some days she comes in a little mentally drained, but she still puts forth the physical effort out there."



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FIELD DAY
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TUESDAY, MAY 31

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Free Event

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Rainbow Run with Rainbow T-shirt
making and music by 88.1 The 'Burg

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11 a.m. • SURC West Patio • Free
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QUEER ART SHOW:
DOWNTOWN RECEPTION
5 p.m. • 420 Gallery • Free

PROFESSIONAL DRAG SHOW
8 p.m. • SURC Ballroom • Free

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

PRIDE PARADE
10 a.m. • Downtown Ellensburg
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www.prideofellensburg.com

QUEER PROM
7 p.m. • SURC Ballroom • Free

WWW.CWU.EDU/EQUAL/PRIDEWEEK

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CWU | RECREATION



SPORTS

EDITOR: ZAC HERETH | sports@cwuobserver.com

Football

New coach powers CWU defense

By Ryan Kinker
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In the lifetime of most Americans, moving across the country is not an option. Central Washington University's newest coach has the power to make such a move, and hopes to bring power to CWU's defense.

Defensive Coordinator Scott Power hadn't been beyond Denver in his collegiate and professional life before coming to CWU this spring. This was one of the driving forces behind why he accepted the defensive coordinator position.

"That was part of the interest [in moving]," he said. "My kids are young, so it's a good time in my personal life for my family to make a move."

Power joins CWU after spending time at Marian University, where the team went to the NAIA National Championship game in 2014 and 2015, and winning in 2015.

He is known for having a stout defense. In 2015, Marian ranked first in rushing defense and total sacks, second in scoring defense and third in total defense in the NAIA.

Power, a Fowler, Indiana native, spent most of his life in his home state. He played two years at Hanover College in Indiana, after transferring from the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin-Platteville where he was a two-year starter.

He then spent time over four years in the European Football League and the Arena Football League before embarking on his coaching-career.

His first stop was at Benton Central High School in Benton County, Indiana, for the 2007 and 2008 seasons. After his time at Benton Central, Power then made the move to Wartburg College. In 2012, Power and his defense held opponents to a single-season school record for fewest rushing yards allowed per game, which led to his job at Marian starting in the 2013 season.

After three seasons at Marian, Power felt he was ready for the next step.

"When the phone call came, I felt like we had accomplished the goals that we wanted to accomplish at Marian," Power said. "Researching the tradition of Central Washington football... You can have a lot of success here."

A common-connection led Power to his opportunity at CWU. He was brought to Wartburg as a replacement for Jim Louis, whom Power had kept in contact with.

Power attended camps at Louis' alma mater, St. Cloud State University, where Louis went to coach the team's de-

Football Background

Playing Career:
University of Wisconsin-Platteville (2000-2001)
Hanover College (2002-2004)
European Football League-Turku Trojans (2004)
Arena Football League-Iowa Barnstormers
Colorado Crush
Louisville Crush
Austin Wranglers
Green Bay Blizzard (2005-2007)

Coach Career:
Benton Central High School (2007-2008)
Wartburg College (2008-2012)
Marian University (2013-2015)

fense. Louis coached alongside an offensive coordinator hired on the same day as him, Ian Shoemaker, CWU's current head football coach.

Through his connection with Louis, Power met Shoemaker at St. Cloud State at a camp in 2009, which helped lead to Power's job at CWU.



Jordan Cameron/The Observer

- See "Power" page 16

Scott Power is introducing a new nickel-based defensive scheme to CWU football.



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SPORTS

EDITOR: ZAC HERETH | sports@cwuobserver.com

Basketball

NBA needs to bounce playoff format



By Zac Hereth
Sports@cwuobserver.com | @ZacHereth

The NBA is in the midst of two competitive series as the finals approach, and I could really care less.

Just like last year, the year before and the year before that, I just can't get that excited to watch a league I have nothing invested in. It's been eight-long years since the SuperSonics left Seattle, and every year I feel myself growing evermore distant from the NBA.

I tried to look at a silver-lining when the Sonics left, which was that I could start rooting for individuals and not pick a favorite team, essentially giving me what I deemed acceptable bandwagon-fan status for the NBA, but it didn't work.

My disinterest in the NBA playoffs doesn't just stem from sour grapes though—the playoff system in the NBA is flawed and it's just not fun to watch.

The playoffs are too long. I'm not the first person to say it, and I won't be the last. But the potential for a team to play 28-extra games, or just over one-third of another regular season, is just crazy.



The Golden State Warriors didn't need Steph Curry to beat a vastly overmatched Houston Rockets team in the first round.

But I get it, it's a money thing. If the NBA went back to a five-game first round, those sub-par teams that get in by the skin of their teeth are only guaranteed one home game. The seven-game series guarantees them two, which essentially doubles the playoff revenue for teams that get swept in the first round by far superior opponents.

No other league in the United States besides the NHL (which nobody cares about) plays this long of a postseason. Even worse, the NBA gives teams one or two days off between playoff games when they don't have to travel.

What's worse than the potential 28-extra games? The oversaturation of crappy teams that make the playoffs.

Until this year, winning 38 games and being six-games under .500 would commonly get a team a seven or eight seed in the Eastern Conference.

Should a team with a losing record be in the playoffs? Hell no, but the NBA is fine with letting over half of its teams in playoffs, which really takes away the prestige of being a play-off-caliber team.

Comparatively, the MLB, after recently expanding its play-offs, lets one-third of its teams

in the postseason, and the NFL let's just two-fifths of its team in.

If the MLB let as many teams into the playoffs as the NBA, the Mariners would have made the playoffs in 2002, 2003, 2007, 2009 and 2014; then what franchise would Seattle fans bitch about until football season starts?

Last year's playoffs lasted just two days under two months long, and guess what the NBA did this year? It potentially expanded the length of the finals.

If the NBA finals goes seven games this year, it will span 18-days long, and that's way too damn long. (Insert "Too Damn High" meme here).

"Power" from page 15

Coach Shoemaker stands by his decision to hire Power after the way implementation has gone through spring practice.

"It was a great move to get [Power] out here," Shoemaker said. "We targeted three or four candidates, and we talked to a lot of people who knew him and knew it was a good connection to build this defense and this program."

Power brings with him a defense termed as a "4-2 Nickel," which is different than former CWU defensive coordinator Payam Saadat's "bear" front.

The "4-2 Nickel" is a defense that requires techniques and assignments that are atypical of most defenses run at the high school and collegiate levels, but is seeing more and more use in successful NCAA Division I and NFL defenses.

Winslow Kouassi, senior defensive end, likes what he and the team are getting out of working in Power's system.

"Coach Power brings in a great system," Kouassi said. "As far as the mentality of it, it's an aggressive defense and it's a disciplined defense. You have to be able to keep up with it. He's making us more mentally tough by challenging us every day."

While not coaching, Power has been spending time with his wife and three children, exploring their new home-state.

"Me and my wife thought this place was beautiful," Power said. "It's got mountains, it's got water, it's got lakes. It's dry, but it's a very pretty place."

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